

First Named Inventor: Surajit Chaudhuri Attorney Docket No.: 307523.01
Application No.: 10/813,963 Group Art Unit: 2165
Filed: March 31, 2004 Confirmation Number: 5889
Customer No.: 22971 Examiner: MICHAEL J HICKS
Title: QUERY PROGRESS ESTIMATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1460
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Dear Sir:

Applicants acknowledge the allowance of claims in the subject application by the Examiner with appreciation. The Applicants agree with the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance to the extent that the claims of the present invention are patentable over the references in the record. The Applicants expressly traverse the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance to the extent that any comment is intended or has the effect of limiting a claim scope, explicitly or implicitly, by not reciting verbatim the respective claim language, or is intended or has the effect of limiting a claim scope by stating or implying that all the reasons for patentability are in any way fully enumerated.

Moreover, it appears that the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance may reiterate the Examiner's arguments made during prosecution. By virtue of the Examiner's allowance of the claims over the cited references and the associated arguments, it is believed that the previous arguments made by the Examiner have been overcome. Additionally, Applicants specifically do not acquiesce or agree in any manner as to the comments made by the Examiner regarding what the prior does or does not teach. Indeed, Applicants have pointed out the errors in the comments/arguments in Applicants' Response to the Office Action(s).

The Applicants further point out that the reasons for allowance set forth by the Examiner are not the only reasons that the claims are allowable. Further reasons for allowance of the claims beyond those enumerated by the Examiner are described and set forth in the

Applicants' specification. In addition, structures and methods that perform substantially the same function in substantially the same way to achieve substantially the same results are included within the scope of the claims.

Finally, as the Examiner's reasons for allowance are not exhaustive, such reasons for allowance do not establish an estoppel against Applicants seeking and obtaining allowance of additional, broader claims in a continuation application, which Applicants reserve the right to file.

Respectfully submitted,

Microsoft Corporation

Date: January 9, 2009 _____ By: /Henry Gabryjelski/ _____

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January 9, 2009 _____ /Noemi Tovar/ _____
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